# COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

Vol. XIX. No. 26.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1811.

Price 1s.

768

of lon, ajor

ery

Was on,

exthe

ing

Ker-

bra-

de-

his

red

for-

han

nce-

full

ialt-

new

rtil-

ex-

rsuit

the

vere

n of

been

hich

oeen

Wal-

very

was

der-

iam,

y he l ca-

rosa

the

nder

eute-

been

ed in

cess-

ench

d.-

ene.

ral of

ken;

arde,

and

with

veral

field

ms of

ice in

Mall,

[770

# SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

-Whatever appertains MR. BINGHAM. to the safety and freedom of the people is proper to become a subject of remark under this general head of my work; and, certainly, nothing has, for a long while, occurred more deeply interesting than the case of this gentleman, who, as being thought guilty of having set his own house on fire for fraudulent purposes, has, for some time past, been an object of general execration, which was the more bitter from the circumstance of his being a Clergyman. -- He was tried at Horsham, in Sussex, on Tuesday, the 26th instant, upon two Bills of Indictment. The first for writing a threatening letter to a farmer, telling him that his corn and houses and cattle should be destroyed; and, the second, for burning his own house. -- He has been found NOT GUILTY upon both; and, while we rejoice at this, it is the duty of those who have it in their power to endeavour to prevent other innocent persons from being persecuted in the like manner. The foundation of the first charge was, that the threatening letter was picked up upon a road along which Mr. Bingham had just before passed. Two boys picked it up; and one of them said, that he thought he saw it fly from Mr. Bingham's clothes. No less than six people came to swear, and did swear, that they believed the hand uriting to be his. He was, however, acquitted .- For the other charge there appeared to be not the smallest shadow of proof; but, on the contrary, the strongest possible presumptive proof of the negative of the charge. The sufferings of this gentleman and his family are not to be described. If the malefactor, who expiates his crimes on the gallows, be, notwithstanding his guilt, an object of comassion, as he always will be with merciful minds, what is this gentleman? What ought our feelings to be for him? What bught we to feel for his wife and six children? I really know of no case so loudly calling for general commiseration, and, if it be required, of aid. Here is a stroke sufficient to rain a man; and ought a

man thus to be ruined without any, even the smallest, fault of his own? Surely, there ought to be some means of compensation discovered for injuries like this.-Upon the swearing to the hand writing I cannot help making a few remarks, which may tend to put JURIES upon their guard against bold swearers of this sort.— I have often taken one hand writing for another, and where is the man who has not. But, I have, in my own experience, such an instance of the uncertainty as to the identifying of hands writing, that I cannot refrain from mentioning it. ---The reader will easily suppose, that my hand writing must be pretty well settled; that it must be grown into a sort of character of its own, and that those who are in the habit of seeing it frequently would safely swear to it, especially when I tell him, that it is full of singularities, not only in the shape of the letters themselves, but in the general cast and appearance of it, the constant necessity of combining great dispatch with perfect legibility having produced it. - But, in spite of all this, the writing of all my children, who can write, is so much like mine, that, at the first look, every one would take it for mine; and, the writing of my eldest son (12 years of age) is such an exact likeness of it, in all respects whatever, even to the very points and commas and dots, that I defy any human being to tell one from the other. A letter shall be written between us, some of the paragraphs by one and some by the other, and I will defy any man in the world to point out which of them came from one hand and which from the other. Persons the best acquainted with my writing cannot distin-guish mine from that of my son. In many instances the wonderful similarity has made gentlemen, who have witnessed it, resolve never to swear to hands writing; and, in scores of instances, I myself have taken my son's hand for my own .-- Now, this being the case with a boy 12 years of age, who has never been taught this imitation, but, who has merely fallen into it from habit, I leave the reader to guess how dangerous it must be to make the

gou

eve

We

par

pen

exc

and

just

him

he

but

not

tries

coun

som

" al

"tr

sent

you

She

be)

who

alac

com

whe

nour

SEAU

says, which

right

duty

But,

mot

the o

woul

they

ling

unna

wher

subst

nial (

stran

to us

all ti

capal

bear

they

that t

them:

them

or se

their

they We sl

that w

Wec

and w

from

liberty and life of a man depend upon oaths as to similarity of hands writing. When Mr. LEMAITRE, whose hard case has been so long before the public, was shown the address of a letter by the Privy Council, and asked whether that was his hand writing, he answered yes; but, when he came to see the contents of the letter, he said he never wrote it. This was looked upon as proof of his guilt. Yet, might not the same happen to me, if the address of a letter to an acquaintance of mine were written by my son? -- I hope, that this case of Mr. BINGHAM will be a warning to juries how they decide upon oaths as to hands writing, and that it will also be a warning to witnesses how they make such No man's life is safe if it is to be affected by such evidence; for, how many men are there, who can, in the course of a few days, learn to imitate, to the greatest perfection, any hand writing! In short, to admit of such evidence is to put every man's life in jeopardy, to expose him to the murderous machinations of spies, informers, and all the dark troop of villains, who trade in accusations and live upon human blood. The CHIEF BARON, who tried the Indictments against Mr. BINGHAM, seems to have behaved with great humanity towards the injured prisoner, who, on his side, appears to have discovered great fortitude, and manliness of character, and to have been kindly and feelingly supported by his friends, as he ought to be by his neighbourhood and by the public at large.—One point in the evidence against him, as to the threatening letter, was, that the water-mark in the paper corresponded with that of paper on which he had written to other people. Good God! What evidence is this? He proved, that the same sort of paper was commonly sold in the neighbourhood; but, suppose it had not? Even suppose that he used paper made for his use exclusively, how was he to answer that no servant of his would take away a sheet of his paper? And, in all likelihood, any villain, who would imitate his hand writing, would, even in such a case, take care to get at a sheet of his paper; while he himself, if he was about to write a threatening letter, would take special care to furnish himself with some other sort of paper. There is nothing more carefully to be guarded against than this slender sort of evidence, which, at best, amounts to grounds of mere suspicion. It is unworthy of the name of evidence, and men's lives ought not to be put in

jeopardy upon it.—There must be some very vile wretches in the neighbourhood of Mr. Bingham, and it is to be hoped, that they will yet be discovered. The cause of this gentleman is that of every good man. It is the cause of innocence against false accusation; and, the gentlemen in Sussex will be shamefully wanting to themselves as well as to justice towards him, if they fail to show him all the countenance in their power, and, indeed, to compensate him amply and substantially for his wrongs.

CORN AGAINST SUGAR.—In my last NUMBER, at page 749, I inserted an account of the proceedings of the Corn gentlemen, who meet against Sugar at the St. Albans Tavern. In the present Number, at the end of this Summary, I insert certain Resolutions, passed by the Sugar gentlemen, met at the City of London Tavern, on Tuesday, the 26th instant.--The fire from the East certainly overpowers that from the West; and, if the Corn gentlemen have most money, the Sugar gentlemen have decidedly most wit .-Sugar Resolutions contain so many distinct propositions, very well drawn up. They are clear in their meaning, and unless they can be controverted as to their premises, their conclusions are indubitable. All, therefore, that my lord SIDMOUTH and his worthy coadjutors, Mr. Curwen and Sir John Sinclair, have to do, is, to refute the propositions. And, I would beseech them not to look upon this as unnecessary; for, they may be assured, that there are not in this whole kingdom, as many people as would make up a good large cardparty, who are disposed to believe a thing to be wrong merely because these three great men say that it is wrong.-- I do not, for my part, see, why the duty upon Sugar should not be made so low as to enable people to use it for good purposes. It is nutritious and wholesome. Would it not be better to let people use the coarse, as they do molasses in America, as a sort of sauce to fat pork and bacon? Why not use it for the fatting of hogs? Better de that than let it rot in the warehouses and tax the people to lend money to its owners, who would want nothing lent to them, if you will let them sell their goods .- This colony work is, at last, come to a pretty pass. A farmer (for why should not that name be given to a Sugar as well as to 1 Corn grower) in Jamaica is thus situated We compel him to buy all his household

[774

772

ome bood ped, The verv ence ntlenting vards cound, to ly for last n acgenhe St. mber, t cerr genavern, he fire rs that entlegentle-These istinct They unless r preitable. TH and en and o refute eseech cessary; ere are y peoe carda thing

e three \_\_\_l do ty upon w as to urposes. ould it coarse, as a sort Vhy not etter do ses and owners them, if \_This a pretty not that 1 as to 1 situated. ousehold goods, tools, wearing apparel, and whatever else he cannot get in Jamaica, of US. We compel him to send TO US all that part of his produce which he does not expend at home (except a little occasionally exchanged with the Americans for wood and food); and, yet (oh, intolerable in-justice and oppression!) we will not let him sell that produce to the people, when he has sent it to us! - This is the short, but fair, state of his case. - Why do we not let him carry his produce to other countries and get his goods and tools from those countries? "Oh! you traitor," exclaims some loval land-owner! " would you " alienate Jamaica from the Mother coun-"try?" Well, then, if you will not consent to this, why will you not let the Jamaica farmer come into the market with you? Mother! Pretty mother indeed! She is (or, at least, you would have her be) like too many other modern mothers, who perform the office with wonderful alacrity till the hour arrives for giving comfort and support to their offspring, when they cast them off to draw their nourishment from an alien breast. Rous-SEAU, in his work of matchless eloquence, says, she who refuses to her child that which nature has said shall be his birthright, has no claim to his affection or his duty: she has no son; he has no mother. But, we are worse than these unnatural mothers, these mothers, on whose conduct the example even of the tygress is a reproach; we are (or these Corn gentlemen would have us be) worse than they; for, they do think it their duty to get a hireling mother (though almost necessarily an unnatural one) to supply their place; whereas we, not only do not furnish any substitute, but absolutely forbid our colonial offspring to find nourishment amongst strangers. — These colonies are expensive to us, and, therefore, we ought to derive all the benefit from them that they are capable of yielding .- Very well; but, bear in mind, that it is our own choice that they are expensive to us. Bear in mind, that the colonists do not ask us to keep them in our possession. If we will set them free, let them carry their produce, or send it, where they please, and buy their tools and clothes where they please, they will call upon us for no expences. We should not, therefore, blame them for

that which arises out of our own choice.

We compel them to remain subjects to us,

and we cry out about the expence arising

from it. - It has been said, that the

cause of the overstock of Sugar, is, that too much is raised, and that the West India farmers should raise less.—This is very true in one respect; but, observe, that, if they raise less, they will want less of your manufactures, less of the produce of England. And, I must be excused if I do not see that they raise too much, so long as I can point out the means of using their Sugar instead of corn in England, while England is obliged to bring corn from the dominions of the enemy, and pay him an enormous duty upon it, and while he will take nothing but gold and silver in payment. This is the fact that stares the corn gentlemen in the face. When, indeed, " our vallies shall be so filled with "corn" as to render it unnecessary to bring any from foreign countries; when our own fields grow enough food for our own eating; when Mr. CURWEN, whether from the stewing of straw, or, profiting from the hint of his India friend, extracting " good food" for the people out of horse dung \*; when he can say, " here, we have "corn enough for all your wants, and "there is no longer any need of importa-"tion." When he can say this, we will hear what he has to say about shutting out sugar from the market; but, until then, he may be well assured, that, rally as often as he pleases, he will always get defeated in his opposition to the use of Sugar.-If importation of Corn should be rendered unnecessary, as it will, in time, be, by the

2 D2

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;The general scarcity of grain " which prevailed at that time induced "many thousands to flock to the British "camp in search of food, and I daily " witnessed, for weeks together, many " hundreds of all ages and sexes, coming " into the lines of our cavalry, and anxiously " collecting and carrying away the excre-"ment, as it fell from the horses; this " they exposed for a few hours to the sun, " and by rubbing and sifting it, procured "a large supply of GOOD FOOD."-This Mr. Curwen publishes in his "HINTS " ON AGRICULTURAL SUBJECTS," as part of an "Interesting Communication," sent him by "a very intelligent officer, who had "served long in India;" and a pretty hint it is for an English Landowner to publish. I wonder it had not led the inquisitive mind of Mr. Curwen to consider what degree of nutriment might have been found for the poor in the milk of the -Bones and broth always to go cavalry .together.

.

66 6

60 6

40 6

...

46 6

66 6

66 6

...

11

66 S

11 }

" i

66 1

.. (

er p

"a

" b

66 t

" p

" e

" F

" 5

" p

" g

" th

" li

44 Si

" ra

" W

" h

" pr

" ra

" m

" th

" cr

" an

" go

" op

" na

" B

" sa

" or

" WC

" va

" co

" ou

" be

"at

diminution of the number of hands employed in manufactures, it will then become a question whether we ought to shut Sugar out of the market as a competitor of Corn; but, at present, it cannot be a matter of doubt with any impartial man of sense; and, the opposition to the use of Sugar instead of Corn in the Distilleries, while we are buying corn from our enemy with gold and silver, can arise, I think it must be allowed, from nothing but the grossest of ignorance, accompanied, in some instances, with greediness insatiable. Why does not Mr. Curwen object to the sale of tea? He has found out a method of keeping the poor upon milk, proceeding from his stewed straw and his cabbages; and, he would cut off all the allowances of tea and butter, and almost the whole of the bread. He asserts, that milk is more wholesome, nutritious, and strengthening, than bread and butter and tea; and that it is a better beverage for hard-working men, than porter, or beer, because it is harder of digestion. So that here he comes athwart the hawser of the Barley-growers; and, while he is publishing a book to make milk a beverage of catholic use; while he is at work tooth and nail to drive beer and porter out of vogue, he is meeting at the St. Alban's Tavern to promote the making of barley into poisonous whiskey! Aye, and asserting, that if this be not done, we shall have no resource of corn in times of scarcity! He seems quite to have forgotten that famous resource, the milk, which, according to his book, is meat, drink, and almost clothing, and with which, in his Sangradolike zeal, he appears to wish to drench and wring the bowels of the whole nation. -But, enough of these fooleries. Let us come to something more worthy of our serious attention.

JUBILEE DOLLARS,—In my last Number, at page 746, I suggested some doubts as to what might be necessary to be done, in consequence of the rise in the price of the Dollar, as to the salaries of persons in the employment and pay of the government, and, by way of illustration, I took the case of my Lords the Judges, who will now receive the Dollar at 5s. 6d. instead of 5s. as they did before. I suppose a Judge to receive £.4,000 a year; and if he receives this in Dollars at 5s. 6d. instead of 5s. it is as clear as day light, that he will receive only £.3,600 instead of £.4,000. And, as the Dollar rises, it is quite manifest, that my Lord's salary will,

The instance of the Judges in fact, fall .-having been taken, I followed the chain of observation to other persons receiving salaries out of the taxes raised upon the People, and I then went on the pensioners, and even to the Army and Navy, observing, that it appeared to me, that, if any of the salaries were raised, the pay of the Army and Navy must be raised too .pondent, noticing these observations, cries out against me for proposing the salaries of the Judges to be raised; and accuses me of having given encouragement to adding to the public expenditure, and, of course, to the taxes. Really I proposed no such thing. I was merely speculating hypo. thetically upon the consequences of the progressive depreciation of the paper, or, as Lord BATHURST calls it, the rise in the price of Bullion. I did not propose that the Judges should be paid more than they now receive, which, in my opinion, is quite enough. I was only saying, that, if their pay was raised, that of the Soldiers and Sailors would be raised, of course; and, I merely took the instance of my Lords the Judges, because they happened to present themselves first to my mind. -I did not propose, or recommend, or suggest, any thing as proper to be done, at present, in this way; no, nor at any future time; I was merely speaking of some of the consequences of a further rise in the nominal value of the Dollar, and was, amongst other consequences, stating those which would arise to persons receiving pay out of the taxes, especially if this pay was in fixed annual sums. - I have entered into this explanation in order to satisfy my correspondent, that I did not recommend, or mean to recommend, any addition whatever to be made to the salaries of the Judges, or of any body else. But, I must repeat, that, if any rise do take place, I am of opinion it must go all through, not omitting the pensioners; for, why should they be omitted? should any distinction be made? There are hundreds of officers' widows and children, whose cases must call for as much compassion as the case of any human beings. There was some remarks in the MORN-Jubilee Dollars, which I will first insert, and offer some observations upon them; for the subject is of vital importance: it is the Alpha and Omega of English politics: every thing, as to events, turns upon it. " In the Report of the Bullion Committee " is the following passage :- " Your Com-

777] mittee beg leave to advert to the " temptation to resort to a depreciation " even of the value of the Gold Coin, by an alteration of the Standard. This " has been the resource of many Gomost easy remedy to the evil in ques-" tion. But it is unnecessary to dwell " on the breach of public faith, and the "" dereliction of a primary duty of Go-"" implied in preferring the reduction of " " the coin down to the standard of the "" paper, to the restoration of the paper to ""the legal standard of the coin."-"In this sentiment all the writers on the "subject have agreed; nor will it proba-" bly be controverted by any honest and "intelligent man. It might have been "farther observed, that such a remedy "could only have a temporary effect. "We may call a piece of gold or silver "what we please, or declare it shall pass "among ourselves for any nominal sum; "but it will never pass abroad for more "than its intrinsic worth, and at home the "price of every article will quickly be "enhanced in proportion.-When the "Bank first issued Dollars at the rate of " 5s. little attention was paid to the princine, at "ple. The convenience of increasing a good silver currency was felt, and the ne of " declared obligation on the Bank to take n the " them back at the nominal value was rewas, " lied on. The Bank has issued five or those "six millions sterling in Dollars at that iving "rate since 1797, a small part of which s pay " will never go back, the far greater part enter-"having been melted or exported. atisfy " profit derived to the Bank by this opecom-"ration, at the expence of the public, is addi-"matter of easy calculation.—But now riesof " that the Bank has thought proper to in-But, I "crease the nominal value ten per cent. take " and it has become evident that it may o all "go on to any amount, people begin to : for, open their eyes. Having the counte-Why "nance of Government, what hinders the There Bank to operate on the Gold Coin in the ildren, "same way they have done on the Silver, comor to issue pieces of gold, intrinsically eings. worth 15s. to pass for Guineas.—It is MORN-" vain to say the Dollars are not current f these " coin, while no person can refuse them, insert, " or obtain the change of a 20s. note withthem; out taking them. That they have not : it is been made a legal tender, is just such a litics: quibble as maintaining that Bank of "England Notes are not effectually such mittee "a tender. As Mr. Giddy observes, the Com-

776

lges

lain

ing

the

lers,

ing,

the

rmy

res-

cries

es of

e of

g to

e, to

such

ypo-the

, 01,

n the

that

they

n, is

at, if

diers

irse;

my

ened

nind.

d, or

uture

L-

" public Creditors must take them, or go " unpaid.—The excuse for the augmentation of the nominal value of the Dol-" lars is, that Silver has risen in price. In "comparison with what has it risen? "Silver, in comparison with Silver of the " same standard, cannot rise. It will not " be pretended that Gold has risen, as in "comparison with Silver, beyond the " usual difference. But, in comparison "with Bank Paper Silver has undoubt-"edly risen, or. in more accurate terms, " the Paper has depreciated. That fact "was sufficiently demonstrated before, "the comparison being made with Gold, "which is the true and only standard. " But if that were wanted, the fact seems " to be put beyond all doubt by this ope-" ration of the Bank itself, and the pre-" sent rate of depreciation fixed at very " nearly 20 per cent. How soon it may " be at 50 per cent. no man can tell, while " the Bank is permitted to follow the course it " has done for some years past, and which it " seems resolved to persist in, while any "Gold or Silver remains in the country. -Now, I shall not, I am quite sure, be suspected of any partiality towards the Old Lady in Threadneedle Street, whom I look upon as having been one of the great causes of all the mischiefs that have been brought upon the country; but, really, I do not understand these charges " While the Bank is against the Bank. permitted to follow the course it has done "for some years past." Why, Mr. PERRY, how can the Bank help it? How can any body refuse to permit the Bank to go on as it does? It is an old saying, that one cannot have blood out of a flint stone; but, I will venture to say, that this truth is not more obvious than the truth, that you cannot make the Bank change its course, and that the Bank cannot change its course of itself. " Resolved to persist!" Why, you may as well reproach my man Compton with resolving to have but one arm. The poor fellow had it shot off; and, is he to be accused of persisting in having but one arm? Yet, is there, in my opinion, full as much injustice in charging the Bank with persisting in having papermoney instead of real money.but will I allow there to be no remedy then? That we will talk about, after I have heard the debate upon Mr. Horner's motion, which, I see, is coming on, that gentleman having sent up word to the Honourable House, that he means to come on with it in a short time. But, in the meanwhile,

781]

" up

" TO

" po

e the

" not

" we

" tra

" con

" all

66 to :

" mi

" the

" mi

" VIC

" ha

# P(

" di

" Bi

" W

" bi

er tie

" m

" ha

" th

" sic

" ob

" to

" Se

" St

" re

" W

" by

" se

Her

the

MIL

ther

mal

poo

thus

read

A g Sin

the

PE

pre

piet

twe

rish

Wit

bay

Roj

onl

imp

it may not be amiss to observe, that I shall, in my remaining Letters on Paper against Gold, treat of this matter at full length. I should have done it long ago; but, I wished first to hear what the Honourable House had to say upon it. When I have their opinions before me; when I have all their projects of remedies, then I will give mine; and time will tell who is right and who wrong. But, I have no scruple in saying even now, that, if there be nothing better in reserve, in the way of remedy, than what I have seen in the Bullion Report, it will be only another bubble, added to all that we have seen before; if there be nothing but the scheme of restoring the paper, the disappointment of all those who look to that scheme as a remedy will be, at the least, full as great as any that they have hitherto experienced .-In the above article, Mr. Perry tells us, that, " when the Bank first issued Dollars " at 5s. little attention was paid to the " principle." - By himself, he means, perhaps; but, by me, to my great annoyance from abuse, very great attention was paid to it; and, I, in every stage of the measure, reprobated the power given to the Bank, and foretold its consequences. If Mr. Perry will take the trouble to look into the Indexes of Vols. IV. and V. of the Register under the words, Dollars, Bank Dollars, and Bank Notes, he will find, not only that great attention was paid to the matter, but that all the arguments, which he now makes use of, and a great many more, were then used, against permitting the Bank to issue coin; and also, that all the consequences were foreseen and foretold, just as they have come, and are coming, to pass .- " Now" this thing, he says, is beginning to open the eyes of the people. The eyes of all those, who were not wilfully blind, were opened long ago; and, I believe, that the far greater half of the people see as clearly what is now coming as they see the sun when it shines. Whether the rod-of-iron men or the ralliers or the life and fortune or the last-shilling and last-drop-of-blood men; whether any of these see it, is more than I can say, and, it is, indeed, what I do not care a straw about. See it, or see it not, no one can do any thing to prevent it, though, as I shall hereafter show, much may be done if taken in time, to prevent many of the fatal consequences which will naturally arise from it, if no previous measures of precontion are taken .- But, at any rate, I must always repeat, that, let the conse-

quences be what they may, no part of them will be ascribable to the Jacobins and Le. vellers, who have had nothing at all to do They have been kept with the matter. down. "The great statesman now no more" and his followers, of both parties, have succeeded in keeping down the Reformers. They have prevented Reform, and have joined in calling the Reformers " a low de-" graded crew." Well, then, the Re-Well, then, the Reformers have had nothing to do with the They have had no financial measures. They have been told, that those who kept them down were the wisest men in the world. They have been reproach. ed as beasts unfit to think of such high matters. Well, then, let us now see; let us see, and judge by, the result. Let these men, who have reproached us with all sorts of baseness, because we have called for a reform of parliament; let them, now, and in the times that are coming, keep the concern in their hand, and shew us the result.

FLOGGING THE POOR. -- A bill has lately been introduced into the House of Commons by a Mr. CHAPLIN (whose name I never happened to hear of before); and, according to Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY's description of it, it would have authorized certain persons, to be called DIRECTORS (no bad name, by the by) to flog the poor. What was said by Mr. CHAPLIN himself and by Sir Samuel Romilly, which I take from the Morning Chronicle of the 26th some idea of this Bill, of which I shall publish an abstract, as soon as I can lay my hands upon the famous instrument.

It is called the "Spilsby Poor "BILL," and what I am now going to insert is a report of what these two gentlemen said, upon a motion for a second reading of it .-- " MR. CHAPLIN moved the " second reading of the Spilsby Poor Bill, " for the purpose of postponing it for a He was aware that there were " month. " many objectionable clauses in it; but, " perhaps, with several alterations, it " might be rendered worthy the attention " of the House. SIR S. ROMILLY Was " anxious to give every opportunity for " improvement, where improvement was possible, but the whole frame and object of the Bill was bad; there was not a " single clause but what was liable to objection. He again adverted to some of "the most extraordinary provisions of this Bill, which was intended to operate.

[780 them Leto do kept lore" have rmers have w de-Ren the d no those men oach. high et us these a all alled now, p the the has se of name and, derized TORS poor. iself take 26th ader shall 1 lay ent. POOR initle-

readthe Bill, for a were

but, it. tion was

for was ject

pl a Qb-

e of of.

rate.

" these parishes, whether asking for relief or " not, to go into this workhouse. They " were to have all the authority of magis-"trates with respect to such as they should " consider vagrants. They were to be al-" allowed to enter houses at their discretion " to search for vagrants. They might com-" mit to solitary imprisonment, without limit, "the poor which they collected, and ad-" minister moderate correction for misbeha-"viour; in other words, they were to " have the power of FLOGGING THE "POOR under their controul, at their own " discretion. They might besides, by this "Bill, seize all the poor children in the parish, "whether calling for relief or not, and "bind them apprentices at their discre-"tion. He understood that many of the " most respectable inhabitants of Spilsby " had never heard of such a Bill, and that "they strongly disapproved of its provi-"sions. He next adverted to some very " objectionable provisions in Acts relating "to the Poor, that had passed in former "Sessions, the St. Paul's, Shadwell; the "St. George's, Southwark, Acts, &c. and " recommended a more strict attention to " such Bills in future. He thought that a " remedy to these Workhouse Regulations "was urgently required, and concluded "by proposing that the Bill be read a " second time this day six months."-Here was a pretty thing! The thanks of the country are due to SIR SAMUEL Ro-MILLY for this stand. What! FLOG them! Seize them first by force, and then flog them !--But, it is useless to make observations; only, I wish that the poor of these twenty parishes, who were thus to be exposed to FLOGGING, could read this speech of Sir Samuel Romilly. A great deal of outcry was made against SIR FRANCIS BURDETT'S prediction, that the next thing would be to FLOG THE PEOPLE; but, if this bill had passed, the prediction would have been most completely fulfilled; for, if they had flogged twenty parishes, why not flog all the parishes. The bill was, it seems, rejected without a division; but, it was brought in; the attempt was made; and, it seems to

have failed from the activity and attention

and merciful disposition of SIR SAMUEL

ROMILLY. But, it was not the flogging

only, there was that infernal thing solitary

imprisonment and without limit, and at dis-

cretion too! What must be thought of

" TORS were empowered to compel all the

" poor throughout the whole extent of

this in foreign countries? What must any nation upon earth think of it? Shall we be told, that Buonaparté flogs his poor? Will this assertion be flung in our teeth? Will the venal writers of the MORNING Post and the Courier tell us, that we ought not to grumble at this, because, say they, the people in France are flogged? Suppose such were the case (and I dare say they are as ready to swear that it is as they were to swear that Napoleon and his ministers boasted of being addicted to unnatural crimes), suppose this were the case, what comfort would that have been to the poor in Lincolnshire, if the lash had been permitted to be laid on upon them? - This has, however, been prevented; and, again I say, our thanks are due to SIR SAMUEL ROMILLY. --- "De-" spise not the poor, because he is poor," is a precept of the Bible; and, if we are to refrain from despising them, surely, we ought not to leave them to be flogged and imprisoned at the pleasure of any set of men whatever. -- What a thing this is only to be named, or thought of, in England! What a thing it is, in this, which is everlastingly called the freest and most happy country in the world! The Act has not passed, and will not pass; but, it was drawn up; some man must have sitten down and written it out; it must have been formed upon deliberation; it is next to impossible that it could have arisen out of the mind of one man; no single man could have supposed it possible, that, wholly unaided, he could have been able to carry through such a bill.—Let us hope, that this will be sufficient to produce caution for the future, and that some Members of Parliament, imitating SIR SAMUEL ROMILLY, Will look into such matters.

The birth of this FRENCH PRINCE. child is a great event. In another part of this Number, I have inserted the account of it, as it stood in our daily news-papers; for foolish as it appears, it is what one may wish hereafter to refer to. It is the first announcement of an event that may have, and, in all likelihood, will have, a great effect upon the future lot of the people of Europe.——It is a whimsical idea, that has got abroad, through the news-papers, that his having a child will dispose Napoleon to peace! Was there ever any thing so to peace! foolish! But, it shows what our state is, when we thus catch at straws. Peace! Aye, he will be disposed to peace at any time, if we will withdraw our troops from

Dis

Bri

trac

ries

tati

tion

Brit

upo

sam

H

acc

real

imp

par

on!

to

tha

7,0

gra

of (

ma

abo

the

req

bad

Dis

not

usu

the

tille

aga

sup

a 6

not ple

spe

ano

abo

gra

cou

also

nies

min

nua

and

Dis

bek

Pro

Col

ted

tille

mit

Por

Faris

F

Spain, Portugal, and Sicily, and will give up Malta, and all the Islands that we have taken from the French, Dutch, and Danes, and will take care not to interfere in the affairs of Mexico and the rest of South America. These are his terms of peace; and if his Empress had had twins he would not have been disposed to listen to any other. Peace, indeed! Never shall we see it, till the Dollar has done rising; that is to say, till the paper-money has found its level; its natural level. Peace! Why, does he not know all about our situation as well as we do? Does any body believe, that he does not hear all about the Commercial Relief and the five and sixpenny dollar?--What an idea, that he should now, because he has got a child, leave off thinking about conquests and power! But, as I said before, it shows exactly what our situation is. It shows what a state we have been brought into, and not by the reformers.

Press in India. In another part of this paper, I have inserted the debate upon the subject of the Press in India; but, at present, I have no time to say any thing upon the subject. I beg the reader to go through. Look well at it, and particularly at the speech of LORD ARCHIBALD HAMILTON, who made the motion, out of which this curious debate arose. I gave a description of this Press, from very good authority, in the Spring of 1806; but the INS of that day were too busily employed in securing their places to think of the matter then. It is a very fine subject. Pray, reader, look well at the speeches. I shall offer some remarks upon the subject, in my next Number.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM. -I shall also, as far as I can, insert in this Number, the debate upon Mr. WYNNE'S Bill about Bribery at Elections. -- These things should not escape us for an hour .this subject, too, I shall, in my next, offer some observations, and I insert the debate itself here, that the reader may be prepared for them .- These are the matters that really concern the people of England. We may leave the Mouning Post and the COURIER to fill their columns about the victories of Busaço and Barrosa, and the history of GENERAL PENA; for although Mr. Graham appears to have shown very great bravery and to have been well supported by his troops, the affair is, in my opinion, of infinitely less importance than

any one of the sentences in Sir John Anstruther's Speech upon Mr. Wynne's Bill against Bribery at Elections.—Not that I think any thing at all of Mr. Wynne's measure. It would have done no good at all in the end. But it caused a debate, and out came some things to be eternally borne in mind.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS. — Lord Folkestone's motion about Ex Officio informations is another capital subject. It is one in which the public are really interested; and as such it shall be noticed in my next.

WM. COBBETT.

State Prison, Newgate, Friday, March 29, 1811.

#### CORN AGAINST SUGAR.

At a General Meeting of West India Planters and Merchants, held at the City of London Tavern, on Tuesday the 26th of March, 1811, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Bill for the regulation of the Distilleries now before Parliament, &c. &c.

CHARLES ELLIS, Esq. M. P. in the Chair. Resolved, That the West India Colonists do not presume to question the policy on which the British Corn Laws are founded.

Resolved, That by those Laws the prices at which Corn is permitted to be exported or imported, have been fixed with reference only to the encouragement of Agriculture, and to the due supply of the Country.

Resolved, That the use of Corn in the Distilleries has never been prohibited, except when Corn was above the prices at which importation was permitted or encouraged.

Resolved, That Sugar has been always, in effect, excluded from the Distilleries, except when the use of Corn therein was

n these principles prohibited.

Resolved, That it is therefore incorrect to affirm that the employment of Sugar in the Distilleries has ever been adopted, either as a Boon to the West India Colonists, or to the prejudice of the Agricultural Interests of Great Britain.

Resolved, That the West India Colonists make no claim to a competion calculated to injure, or even to expose to hazard, the Agricultural Interest of this Country; but they confidently claim, upon the ground not less of general policy than of justice to their interests, that the produce of the British Colonies may be admitted to the

An-NE's -Not Mr.

784

done used to be

Lord O IN-. It inter-

ed in

T.

City 26th aking egulaarlia-

Chair. onists cy on

in the bited, prices ed or

leries, in was

Cologricul-

y; but ground justice of the to the

ated to d, the

India

nded. prices ported erence alture,

ways,

correct igar in opted,

lonists

Distilleries in preference to Foreign Corn. Resolved, That whenever the growth of British Corn is insufficient for the necessary consumption of the Country, the extraordinary consumption of the Distilleries may be supplied either by the importation of Foreign Corn, or by the substitution of Sugar, without prejudice to the British Corn Grower; and that the effect upon the price of British Corn will be the same, whether Sugar or Foreign Corn be employed for that purpose.

Resolved, That it appears by official accounts now before Parliament, that the real value of the Corn, Grain and Flour imported into Great Britain from Foreign parts (Ireland of course excluded), amounts on the average of eleven years (from 1800 to 1810 both inclusive) to 3,721,866l. and that in the last year it reached the sum of 7,077,8651, while the real value of the grain annually consumed in the Distillery of Great Britain (when supplied by grain), may be estimated at about 950,000l. or about 470,000 quarters, which quantity in these latter years would have been further required to be annually imported, if Sugar had not been substituted for Corn in the Distilleries.

Resolved, That although Barley does not constitute a large proportion of the usual importation of Foreign Corn, yet as the consumption of this article in the Distilleries is asserted to afford a resource against an occasional deficiency in the supply of British Corn, and to operate as a Granary for the food of Man and Beast in time of scarcity (an effect which could not be produced, except upon the principle that the consumption and price of one species of Grain are influenced by those of another,) there appear from the facts above stated, of the average import of grain, to exist ample means, both for encouragement of British Agriculture, and also for some support to the British Colonies, with the additional advantage of diminishing that large tribute which we anmually pay to the Agriculture, Commerce, and Resources of the Enemy.

Resolved, That the incidental advantage arising from the admission of Sugar to the Distilleries, as proposed by the Bill now before Parliament, is so guarded by the Provisions of that Bill, that the West India Colonist so far from being in effect admitted to an equal competition, for the Distillery with British Corn, is not even admitted upon terms as favourable as the Poreign Importer; the Foreign Importer is admitted into general competition with the British Corn Grower when Barley is at 33s. per quarter, while 38s. per quarter is the price now proposed to be fixed for the admission of Sugar into competition with British and Foreign Corn conjointly, on what is assumed to be an equal footing.

Resolved, That this Bill, therefore, though advantageous to the West India Colonists, as compared with the total exclusion from the Distilleries, to which they have been subjected, will be a benefit very far short of that to which they conceive themselves to be equitably entitled, and which, in consequence of the necessity for a large importation of Foreign Corn, might be afforded to them without discouragement to the Agriculture of the Country. C. ELLIS, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the Chair, Resolved, That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman for his conduct in the Chair. WM. HOLDEN, Sec.

## PRESS IN INDIA.

LORD ARCHIBALD HAMILTON'S MOTION. AND DEBATE THEREON, IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ON THE 20TH MARCH,

Lord Archibald Hamilton rose to make his promised motion relative to the state of the Press in India. His lordship did not mean, at present, to go fully into the question, but merely to move for a copy of the Orders and Regulations that had been issued on the subject of the Press in India. He should state to the House not only what his object was, but what it was not. He had no intention at present to find fault, or to ask of the House to deliver any opinion on the subject; but only, that they would afford themselves an opportunity of knowing what the facts of the case were. He presumed, that the circumstances of the late trials at Madras afforded sufficient evidence of the necessity of the information he now wished to obtain, but on considering that subject, additional reasons seemed to present themselves. Of late years the Press in India, it was said, had been put under Regulations, inconsistent, not only with justice, but with what had been even recognized by that House. He asked, therefore, for information, not only as to what the law was, relating to the Press in India, but how it could have been rendered so contrary to what had ever been understood, or been recognized in that House. They

tab

DI

tio

no

the

the

tiol

COL

Bri

ver

Ind

end

No

the

tho

sho

Lor

pla

tion

am

tari

han

but

by

who

ract

mea fied

serv

men

thei

new

pan

righ

him,

ente

cann

up to

the !

some

ercis

tend

to In

very

whic

prese

and c

was t

tions the C

Lo

bane

of the

ion o

ions

every indep

or pri

knew that the Resolutions of that House had frequently been set at nought by the Governors of India; that they had been most tyrannically set aside in the case of the Nabob of Oude, where a proclamation had been issued, said to be by the direction of this Government, at a time when no such direction could have been received. It was impossible that the House should allow such an exercise of unjust power to exist, if it consisted with their knowledge; and all he wished was to put them in possession of the fact. As to the Newspapers, nothing was allowed to appear in them, till it had previously been submitted to the inspection, and received the approbation, of the Secretary to the Governor-General. His lordship did not now inquire, if this was right or wrong. He only stated the fact. The penalty of non-compliance with this regulation was, that the party transgressing was immediately embarked for Europe. It was for the House to say, if such a power as this ought to depend on an individual. It would be found, also, that rules were laid down by the Governors of India for the security of the Government, by which the Secretary, or some other officer was invested with the privilege of revising all publications before they made their appearance. He should state what were the subjects on which it was prohibited to any man to write, and should then wish gentlemen to consider, if all those topics were prohibited, what was open? The subjects prohibited, were, any statements or observations relating to the public Credit, to the finances of the Country, Naval or Military Estimates, the objects and destinations of any Expeditions public or individual, all discussions or observations concerning War or Peace; every thing tending to give information to the Enemy, or to excite alarm; and the republication of any Extracts from European Journals, which could tend to injure the British interests in India. All his lordship now wished for, was the Papers, from which the House would be enabled to see the exact extent of these prohibitions and restrictions on the Press in India. gentlemen reflected on the ruin which had been brought by our Government in India on the Native powers, they would find that they could hardly turn their eyes around without perceiving that the administration of justice was the only object which remained to excite either admiration or respect. Let them look, however,

to the late trials at Madras, and they would find that on that occasion, the Courts of Justice had been so ashamed of their proceedings that they would not let the public know the nature of them, and that they had prohibited the trials from being printed. If there had existed any thing, as was said, to create fermentation, the publication of the trials must have been calculated to produce good rather than harm. It would appear that three of the Grand and two of the Petty Jury had been sent to a distance from Madras, on occasion of those trials, some of them to the distance of 600 miles; and that one person, who was a Justice of Peace, had been broken on the same occasion. His Lordship could conceive no possible reason for the Government of India preventing those trials from being published, except that the Courts were ashamed of them. He thought, therefore, that the Papers necessary to shew the law relative to the restrictions on the Press in India ought to be laid before the House; it being impossible that any person could have a fair trial, where there was an ambiguity in the law. His Lordship read the opinion of Judge Sullivan, to shew that an unauthorized restriction of the Press could not be easily passed by, as it was the best security that the sources of public justice should be kept unpolluted. Either this was extravagant rant, or it must be applicable to India as well as to this country. He concluded by moving, " That there be laid before the House Copies of all Orders, Regulations, Rules, &c. relative to the Restrictions on the Press in the different Presidencies in India, either by the Governments themselves, or transmitted from this country, since the year 1797.

Mr. Dundas should shortly state his reasons for opposing the motion of the Noble Lord in toto. He must particularly complain of the time chosen by the Noble Lord for alluding to the topics introduced by him. All the proceedings alluded to by the Noble Lord had been ordered to be laid before the House, and when they were on the table, but not till then, it would be time to consider them. It was not for him now to determine as to the conduct of the Courts in India; that would be to anticipate what would come more properly before the House at some future opportunity.

But the Noble Lord had called for the rules prevailing in India besides those es-

uld

of

oro-

ub-

hev

int-

oub-

cal-

arm.

rand

sent

n of

ance

who

oken

could

Go-

trials

the

ught,

y to

ns on

efore

t any

there

Lord-

livan, ion of

by,

ources

npol-

rant,

vell as

mov-

e the

ations,

ns on

ies in

them-

untry,

is rea-

Noble

y com-

Noble

oduced

ided to

d to be

n they

t would

not for

duct of

be 10

re pro-

future

for the

ose es-

tablished there for the regulation of the press. With the exception of the regulations mentioned by the Noble Lord, he was not aware of any other, and he would ask the Noble Lord, if it was his wish that there should be an unrestrained publication of Newspapers in India? This surely could not be the wish of any friend to the British interests in India. He doubted very much if the existence of a press in India without such controul might not endanger the Government there. The Noble Lord then agreed with him, that there ought to be some restrictions. If those now existing were disapproved, he should be glad to hear what the Noble Lord would wish to substitute in their place as equally efficient and less objectionable. There was no person in India amongst the Europeans who did not voluntarily agree to those regulations beforehand. No person could go out to India but in the service of the Government, or by the license of the Company. They who were in India in neither of these characters were by law guilty of a misdemeanour. Were not the Company justified in imposing conditions upon their own servants-might not any public department make a regulation prohibitory of their officers or clerks becoming editors of newspapers?—and why not the Company? It takes from the individual no right; but enjoins certain conditions upon him, which if he dislikes, he need not enter into their service; but if he does he cannot complain of being required to act up to them. The Noble Lord talked of the benefits of free discussion: suppose some of the news-paper writers, in the exercise of such a right, endeavoured to extend the benefits of the British Constitution to India; would not this be going to the very foundation of the principles upon which we hold our tenure in India-that of preserving to the natives their ancient laws and customs. He did not see what there was to complain against as to the regulaions which had been approved in 1800 by the Company.

Lord FOLKESTONE thought there were abundant reasons furnished by the speech of the Right Honourable Gentleman who had just sat down, for agreeing to the motion of his Noble Friend. If those regulations were of so paramount a nature that every individual became bound by them, independant of every other consideration of principle, then was it, in his judgment,

most necessary that the House should know what those regulations were: and when it was recollected that they related to India, he thought that circumstance was in itself sufficient to give great reason for jealousy and distrust on the part of the House. He denied that those stated by his Noble Friend were the sole regulations, as the Right Honourable Gentleman seemed erroneously to think they were. Neither did he think it fair of that Right Honourable Gentleman to call upon his Noble Friend to propose better regulations than those now existing. This was not fair; it was not parliamentary. His Noble Friend had done his duty in complaining of what he thought was wrong. He should vote for the production of the Papers-first, because he thought that they ought to know under what rules and regulations the Natives lived; and next, because it was necessary, in his opinion, to inquire whether such rules furnished adequate grounds for prohibiting the right of publication of the trials at Madras claimed by the parties concerned.

Sir John Anstruther opposed the motion. The Noble Lord had called for those regulations on the grounds that they were illegal, oppressive, and unjust. Now he could not agree to the motion, as he did not think them illegal, oppressive or unjust. Did Gentlemen duly consider the country, when they talked of the necessity of discussion in India. There were two classes of persons in India, the public servants and the natives; of the former, any who were there not in the service of the Government, or not by the license of the Company, were criminals, and liable to be sent home for a misdemeanour. Was the discussion meant for the natives? He fancied not. Then of what good could it be productive amongst public servants? Were one set of those public servants to be enlightening another by Newspapers, or were both to unite in writing against their masters? Was the Secretary of the Treasurp to set up a Newspaper to write down the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Secretary of the Admiralty to become Editor of another Newspaper, to attack the First Lord of the Treasury? [A laugh.] Suppose a Newspaper should, by a series of discussions, open the eyes of the natives to their strength and our comparative weakness, the small number of British compared with that of the natives? The circumstance which called Lord Welles-

ed

rio

the

cire

hav

Spe

to l

to t

Ho

mel

adn

for

lect

wel

and

tha

the

mad

WOU

V

to t

to !

thre

it w

the

iste

and

Pres

this

M

mad not

neitl

dom

tives

then

the g

sible

these

M

Was

pel a

was t

and i

less a

ley's attention to the state of the Press in India, was not a little singular-It was gravely discussed in a series of ingenious essays, how far, with what ease and safety a combination amongst the natives might dispatch all the British by massacre. [Hear, hear.] As to the refusal of permission to publish the Madras trials, he thought the Judges were right in that refusal. The Noble Lord should recollect the state of Madras at that time-it was in a violent ferment. He thought that fact in itself sufficient to account for and justify the caution of the judges in not allowing the publication to go forth at a time of such heat and commotion. As he could not think the regulations bore the character given them by the Noble Lord, he could not support a motion avowedly founded upon an opinion so opposite to his own.

Mr. Howard (we believe) admitted the necessity of regulations, and acknowledged that a Press in India, wholly unrestrained, might be productive of great mischief. But the matter for complaint was, not that regulations were imposed on men before they went out, to which they previously and voluntarily acceded, but that after they had gone out, they found they had to struggle with innovations superinduced upon those regulations, to which they had not only not voluntarily assented, but of which they had not had any idea. [Hear!]

Sir Thomas Turton was not surprised at hearing the language which had been used by those who opposed this motion: such language was altogether worthy of the country in which the governors were every thing, and the governed were nothing. The absurdity was to speak at all of freedom of discussion, or the liberty of the Press, when India was the subject. The liberty of the Press in India! "Risum " teneatis, amici?" As if a plant of such " celestial growth" could flourish in the sterile soil of despotism! Under any such a system of Government, discussion was indeed to be avoided. Nothing could be more dangerous than freedom of discussion under a Government founded upon blood and upon injustice. As wisely might the liberty of the Press be established at Tunis or Algiers, where the Government was not inferior to that of ours in India [a laugh]. He had no hesitation in avowing it as his opinion, that there was as much liberty enjoyed under the Go-

vernment of the Dey of Algiers, or the Emperor of Morocco, as by the natives under the British Government in India, Therefore must any discussion be dangerous that could open their eyes to their present state, or make them reflect that the British were but one million, while they were sixty millions. But if the regulations were, as they had been, approved of by Gentlemen opposite, he wished to know why they were so reluctant to produce them? He thought, that as rules and regulations affecting such a portion of the British Empire, they ought to be promulgated; if, however, they were so wise and salutary, and beneficial as they were said to be, what possible objection could there be to the motion of the Noble Lord, who only called for their production? The usual Parliamentary objection, that voting for their production implied a censure upon them, could not hold here; if they were what they should be, promulgation could do them nor the country no harm, and if they were not, they ought to be known. The Right Honourable and Learned Gentlemen had, in speaking of the Madras trials, stated, that permission was asked to publish them; this was a mistake, no such permission had been asked. He concluded by stating, that the motion of the Noble Lord should have his cordial support.

Mr. WALLACE did not think that the Noble Lord had made out his argument in support of the present motion, even upon his own grounds. The Noble Lord had laid it down as the grounds of his motion that the regulations were illegal and un-This had by no means been made out-still less had it been established that the refusal of permission to publish the Trials at Madras had been an undue and inexpedient exercise of power. Horfourable Baronet had denied that permission had been asked: he begged leave to correct him in that statement, and to assure him, on the best authority, that permission had been asked. [He here read a letter in proof of his assertion.] There were other reasons justifying the suppression of that publication: one trial took place on the 11th January, another upon the 2d of March-the publication of the former trial, in the intermediate time, might have operated in an unfair way to the prejudice of either party, and therefore to the prejudice of substantial justice. But the Right Honourable and Learned Gentleman (Sir J. Anstruther) had remind. [792

r the

atives

India.

dan-

their

at the

they

egula-

ved of

know

roduce

regu-

romul-

se and

re said I there

i, who

The

voting

eupon

v were

could

and if

mown.

d Gen-

Madras

sked to

o such

Noble

hat the

nent in

n upon

ord had

motion

and un-

n made

ed that

ish the

lue and The

at per-

d leave

d to as-

nat per-

ere read

There

uppres-

al took er upon

of the

e time,

way to

there-

justice.

Learned.

remind.

rt.

ed them of the state of Madras at that period: it had been justly described as being then in a violent ferment—and under such circumstances would it have been wise to have permitted such a publication? (hear!)

Mr. HUTCHINSON observed, that the last Speaker had avowed, that the object was, to keep the people of India in darkness as to the nature of their Government. The more important, therefore, it was, that this House should take care, that our Government there, such as it was, should be well administered. He would therefore vote for the motion.

Mr. Grant said, it ought to be recollected, that the English found the natives subject to a despotic Government. They were not in a condition to enjoy a free one, and no subject more delicate and dangerous than this could be agitated. No case for the production of the papers had been made out.

Sir H. Montgomery said, the report of the trials in question was spurious, and would give no accurate information.

Mr. Lockhart professed himself a friend to the Liberty of the Press, but an enemy to that unbounded licentiousness which threatened to produce that despotism which it was its true end to prevent. But even the freedom of the Press, such as it existed here, was not applicable to India, and the production of these Papers might do harm, but could do no good. The Press had made too great a stride even in this country.

Mr. WHITBREAD agreed that it had made a stride, but it was backwards, and not forwards. It had been avowed that neither our religion nor our political freedom ought to be made known to the natives; but if this was the case, if we ruled them not as fellow-subjects, but as despots, the governors ought at least to be responsible to the House, and for that reason these papers ought to be produced.

Mr. Dundas denied that any hindrance was given to the dissemination of the Gospel among the natives. The only object was to prevent the publication of useless and inflammatory writings and speeches.

Mr. Perceval said that it would be useless and impolitic for the Government to interfere in imposing a religion on the natives, to which, from ignorance and previous habits they might be averse. There was no attempt to prevent the progress of light and religion among the natives beyond what their situation required.

Sir John Newport remarked that, as the House was the only controuling power, they ought to examine narrowly into the regulations of the Indian Government.

Lord A. Hamilton observed that the restraint affected not only Newspapers, but the publication of the Reports of the Courts of Justice. He wished to have all the information possible as to the present state of India, for another reason. This was the month for giving notice to the Directors that the exclusive Charter would soon be at an end. He desired to know whether it was intended to give this notice?

Mr. Dundas had before stated that it was intended.

Mr. G. Johnstone thought no ground had been laid for the motion.

The House divided—For the motion 18, Against it 53—Majority, 35.

#### OFFICIAL PAPERS.

#### BIRTH OF YOUNG NAPOLEON.

AMSTERDAM, MARCH 22, 1811.—His Serene Highness, Prince Arch Chancellor of the Empire, the Duke of Plaisance, Governor General of the departments of Holland, has just received the following dispatch:—

### TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH FROM PARIS, MARCH 20, 1811.

"Her Majesty the Empress of the French, was safely delivered of a Prince, at Nine o'clock this morning.

" A true Copy.
" FLOGON, Director of the
" Telegraph."

The cannon has just aunounced this interesting event to the inhabitants of this town.—Amsterdam Courier Extraordinary, March 22.

Paris, March 20.—"Her Majesty the Empress began yesterday evening towards eight o'clock to suffer the pains of child-birth, which grew less during the night,

sup

mis

the

Ma

the

ing

wit

Ma

Bre

28t

Ma

arti

the

and

all

me

cor

dsi

you

pro

Ea

hor

nisl

ton

utn

mit

kill

inst

the

By

froi

ene

gag

clar

sup

have

I tra

in o

rate

mos

disp

exac

have

fant

ing (

till

which

coul

heat

Retu

and in the morning had nearly ceased. Her Majesty in other respects is well.

" (Signed)
" CORVESAIT, First Physician."
20th March, 6 o'clock in the Morning.

The two following Bulletins, concerning the state of her Imperial Majesty and the young Prince, arrived too late to be inserted in all our impressions yesterday, we now repeat them.

# TELEGRAPH—LINE FROM THE NORTH.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH FROM PARIS, AT HALF PAST ELEVEN O'CLOCK, THE 22D MARCH, 1811.

"Her Majesty and the young Prince are well; the Prince yesterday began to take with avidity nourishment from his Nurse.—(A true Copy.)

" FLOGON, Director of the "Telegraph."

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH FROM PARIS, DATED HALF PAST TWO P. M. THE 22D MARCH.

"The Prince has suffered during the night, the cholical pains incident to his age;—this morning he is well.

" FLOGON, Director of the "Telegraph."

(AMSTERDAM COURIER, 25TH MARCH, 1811.)

In order to worthily celebrate the birth of an imperial Prince, there was last night a general illumination here, in which the inhabitants of this town endeavoured to distinguish themselves as much as the shortness of the time would allow. The palace of his Serene Highness the Prince Governor General was illuminated with the greatest taste and magnificence; the hotels, principal public functionaries, and most respectable individuals presented every thing they were able to prepare in haste. All the theatres gave free admissions. The beauty of the weather, the decent joy which animated an immense concourse of people who were in the streets, rendered this spectacle the most touching .- To day there was a grand parade; after the parade, a most brilliant one, at which the three corps, of the Guards of Honour manœuvred with the National Guard, his Serene Highness the Prince Governor gave a grand dinner. In the evening there was a rout and ball at the Palace. The greatest joy prevailed at the dinner and ball .- (Same Paper.)

SPAIN.—Action of Barrosa, near Cadiz, from the London Gazette Extraordinary, of Monday, March 25.

(Concluded from p. 768.)

Where all have so distinguished themselves, it is scarcely possible to discriminate any as the most deserving of praise. Your Lordship will, however, observe how gloriously the brigade of guards, under Brigadier-General Dilkes, with the commanders of the battalions, Lieut. Col. the Hon. C. Onslow, and Lieut. Col. Sebright wounded, as well as the three separated companies under Lieut. Col. Jackson, maintained the high character of his Majesty's household troops. Lieut. Col. Browne, with his flank battalion, Lieut. Col. Norcot, and Major Acheson, deserve equal praise.-And I must equally recommend to your lordship's notice Colonel Wheatly, with Colonel Belson, Lieut. Col. Prevost, and Major Gough, and the officers of the respective corps composing his brigade. The animated charges of the 87th regiment were most conspicuous; Lieut. Col. Barnard (twice wounded), and the officers of his flank battalion, executed the duty of skirmishing in advance with the enemy in a masterly manner, and were ably seconded by Lieut. Col. Bushe, of the 20th Portuguese, who, (likewise twice wounded,) fell into the enemy's hands, but was The detachment of afterwards rescued. this Portuguese regiment behaved admirably throughout the whole affair.-I owe too much to Major Duncan, and the officers and corps of the royal artillery, not to mention them in terms of the highest approbation; never was artillery better The assistance I received from served. the unwearied exertions of Lieut. Col. Macdonald, and the officers of the adjutant General's department, of Lieut. Col. the Hon. C. Cathcart, and the officers of the Quarter-master General's department, of Captain Birch and captain Nicholas, and the officers of the royal engineers, of Captain Hope, and the ofby their example,) will ever be most gratefully remembered. Our loss has been severe: as soon as it can be ascertained by the proper return, I shall have the honour of transmitting it; but much as it is to be lamented, I trust it will be considered as a necessary sacrifice, for the safety of the whole allied army.-Having remained some hours on the Barrosa heights without being able to procure any

[796

from

hem-

inate

Your

glo-Bri-

man-Hon.

right

rated main-

esty's

, with

orcot,

ise.-

your

with

t, and

e res-

igade.

regi-

t. Col.

fficers

duty

enemy

y se-

20th

round-

it was

ent of

admi-

-I owe

officers

not to

est ap-

better

1 from

. Col.

he ad-

Lieut,

the of-

al's de-

captain

e royal

the of-

mating

e most

as been

rtained

he ho-

as it

consi-

or the

Having

Barrosa

re any

supplies for the exhausted troops, the Commissariat mules having been dispersed on the enemy's first attack of the hill, I left Major Ross, with the detachment of the 3d battalion of the 95th, and withdrew the rest of the division, which crossed the Santi Petri river early the next morning.-I cannot conclude this dispatch without earnestly recommending to his Majesty's gracious notice for promotion, Brevet Lieut. Col. Browne, Major of the 28th foot, Brevet Lieut. Col. Norcott, Major of the 95th, Major Duncan, royal artillery, Major Gough of the 87th, Major the Honourable E. Acheson of the 67th, and Captain Birch of the Royal Engineers, all in the command of corps or detachments on this memorable service; and I confidently trust that the bearer of this dsipatch, captain Hope, (to whom I refer your Lordship for further details) will be promoted, on being permitted to lay the Eagle at his Majesty's feet .- I have the honour to be, &c.

THOMAS GRAHAM, Lieut. General.
P.S. I beg leave to add, that two Spanish officers, Captains Miranda and Naughton, attached to my staff, behaved with the utmost intrepidity.
T. G.

Isla de Leon, March 10. My LORD,-I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the return of the killed and wounded in the action of the 5th inst. and I have the satisfaction to add that the wounded in general are doing well .-By the best account that can be collected from the wounded French officers, the enemy had about eight thousand men engaged. Their loss, by reports from Chiclana, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, is supposed to amount to three thousand; I have no doubt of its being very great .-I transmit, too, a return of the ordnance in our possession, and also the most accurate note that can be obtained of prisoners, most of whom are wounded. They are so dispersed in different hospitals, that an exact return has not yet been obtained. I have the honour to be, &c.

P. S. Detachments of cavalry and infantry have been daily employed in carrying off the wounded, and burying the dead, till the evening of the 8th instant, by which time all the enemy's wounded that could be found among the brush-wood and heath were brought in.

Return of the Nature and Number of Pieces of Ordnance taken in the Action of Burrosa; on the 5th of March 1811.

2 seven-inch howitzers, 3 heavy eightpounders, 1 four-pounder; with their ammunition-waggons and a proportion of horses.

A. Duncan, Maj. Royal Artil. Return of the Prisoners of War taken in the Action of Barrosa, on the 5th of March 1811.

2 General officers, 1 Field officer, 9 Captains, 8 Subalterns, 420 rank and file.
N. B. The General of Brigade Rosseau and two Captains, since dead of their wounds.

J. MACDONALD, Dep. Adj. Gen.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Troops under the Command of Lieutenant-General Graham, in the Action of Barrosa, with the French Corps d'Amee, commanded by Marshal Victor, on the 5th of March, 1811.

Detachment of the 2d Hussars King's German Legion—6 horses killed; 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 serjeant, 31 rank and file, 20 horses, wounded.

Royal Artillery—3 rank and file killed; 2 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 3 rank and file, wounded.

Royal Artillery Drivers—1 serjeant, 2 rank and file, 18 horses, killed; 1 serjeant, 7 rank and file, 22 horses, wounded.

Royal Engineers—1 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file, wounded.

2d Battalion of the 1st Regiment of Guards
—2 Ensigns, 2 serjeants, 3t rank and
file, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 3
Captains, 4 Ensigns, 3 serjeants, 169
rank and file, wounded.

Detachment of 2d Battalion Coldstream Guards—1 Ensign, 8 rank and file, killed; 2 Ensigns, 1 serjeant, 45 rank and file, wounded.

Detachment of 2d Battalion 3d Guards—1 Captain, 14 rank and file, killed: 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 staff, 3 serjeants, 82 rank and file, wounded.

Flank Companies of the first Battalion 9th Foot—8 rank and file, killed; 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 4 serjeants, 2 drummers, 50 rank and file, wounded.

Flank Companies of the 1st Battalion 28th Foot—9 rank and file, killed; 2 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 52 rank and file wounded.

Flank companies of the 2d battalion 82d Foot—8 rank and file, killed; 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 3 serjeants, 86 rank and file, wounded.

Detachment of the 3d battalion 95th Foot
—1 Captain, 13 rank and file, killed

Vo

80

Ma

for

of

Wil

wh

tru

tori

sub

rep

two

spec

othe

loss

Foll

bate

the

yet,

by t

mot

o d

hro

ome

peop

vas

o r

whic

be h

hat

re

Span. trive

order

on a from

leas

eop

ny J out, I

art s

vho 1

f tho

1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 45 rank and file, wounded.

Flank Companies of the 2d battalion 47th Foot—1 Ensign, 1 drummer, 19 rank and file, killed; 1 Captain 49 rank and file, wounded.

1st Battalion of the 28th Foot—6 rank and file killed: 1 Lieutenant, 5 serjeants, 75 rank and file, wounded.

2d Battalion of the 67th Foot—10 rank and file, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 1 serjeant, 30 rank and file, wounded.

2d Battalion of the 87th Foot—1 Ensign, 3 serjeants, 1 drummer, 40 rank and file, killed, 1 Major, 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 9 serjeants, 118 rank and file, wounded.

Detachment of the 2d battalion of the 95th Foot—6 rank and file, killed; 2 Lieutenants, 1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 26 rank and file, wounded.

Flank companies of the 20th Portuguese regiment—9 rank and file, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign 5 serjeants, 37 rank and file, wounded.

Company of the Royal Staff Corps—1 Drummer wounded.

Total—2 Captains, 5 Ensigns, 6 serjeants, 2 drummers, 187 rank and file, 24 horses, killed; 5 Lieutenant Colonels, 1 Major, 14 Captains, 26 Lieutenants, 8 Ensigns, 1 Staff, 45 serjeants, 4 drummers, 936 rank and file, 42 horses, wounded.

Grand Total of individuals killed and wounded — 1243.—John Macdonald, Lieut.-Col., Deputy-Adjutant-General.

Rank and Names of Officers Killed and wounded in the Action of Barrosa. Killed.

Staff—Ensign Eyre, 1st Guards, acting Aide-de-Camp to Colonel Wheatley. 1st Regiment of Guards—Ensign Com-

merell.
Coldstream Guards—Ensign Watts.
3d Guards—Captain Swann.

47th, 2d Battalion-Ensign Delacherois. 87th, 2d Battalion-Ensign E. E. Kough.

95th, 3d Battalion—Captain Knipe.
N. B. Ensign Eyre is returned in the killed of the 1st Regiment of Guards.

Severely Wounded.

2d Hussars King's German Legion—Captain Voss (since dead).

Royal Artillery—Lieutenants Maitland and Pester.

1st Guards—Lieutenant-Colonel Sebright, Captains Stables and Colquitt, Ensigns Sir H. Lambert, Cameron, and Vigors.

3d Guards—Lieutenant-Colonel Hepburn.
1st Battalion 9th Foot—Captain Godwin
and Lieutenant Seward.

Ist Battalion 28th Foot—Hon. Captain Mullins, Lieutenants Wilkinson, Moore, and John Anderson.

2d Battalion 82d Foot—Lieutenant M'Koy.
3d Battalion 95th Foot—Lieutenant Colonel Barnard, Lieutenant W. Campbell.
2d Battalion 67th Foot—Captain Patrick.

son, Ensign Sutherland.

2d Battalion 87th Foot—Major Maclaine, Captain Somersall, Lieutenants J. G. Fennell, and J. C. Barton.

2d Battalion 95th Foot—Lieutenants Cochrane and Hope.

Royal Artillery—Lieutenant Woolcombe

(since dead.)

1st Battalion 9th Foot—Lieutenant Taylor.

1st Battalion 28th Foot — Lieutenant Knight and Bennet, (since dead.)

20th Portuguese - Lieutenant Colonel Bushe.

Slightly Wounded.
2d Hussars King's German Legion-Lieu-

tenant Bock.
Royal Artillery—Captains Hughes and
Cator, Lieutenants E. Mitchell, Brereton, and C. Manners.

1st Guards—Captain Adair, Ensign Fielde. Coldstream Guards—Ensigns Bentinck and Talbot.

3d Guards—Ensign and Adjutant Watson.

1st Battalion 9th Foot—Lieutenant Robinson.

1st Battalion 28th Foot—Captain Bradbey, Lieutenant Blakeney.

2d Battalion 82d Foot—Captain Stewart.
3d Battalion 95th Foot—Lieutenant Hovenden.

2d Battalion 47th Foot—Captain Fetherstone.

2d Battalion 67th Foot-Lieut. Colonel
Prevest, Lieut. W. Ronald.

20th Portuguese—Captain Barrieras, Lieutenants Dom. Estavan, Pantalchao de Olivero, Ensign Felix Antonio Miranda.

Staff-Captain D. Mercer, 3d Regiment of Guards, Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier General Dilkes.

N. B. Captain Mercer is returned in the wounded of the 3d Regiment of guards. (Signed) JOHN MACDONALD Lieut.-Col., Deputy Adjutant-General.

Published by R. BAGSHAW, Brydges-Street, Covent - Garden : -- Sold also by J. BUDD, Pall-Mall,
LONDON :-- Printed by T. C. Hansard, Peterborough-Court, Pleet-Street,